combat the increasing terrorist activities and if so, the difficulties faced by the Union Government in approving the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Request was received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in October, 1991, for despatch of 76 coys. of Para-military forces for law and order duties. Taking into account various factors such as availability of the forces etc. additional coys. to the extent possible were provided to the State Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Post Offices in Rural Areas and to Nayaya Panchayats in Country

626. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide post offices in all the rural areas and Nayaya Panchayats in the country; and

(b) if so, whether the post offices would be opened in all the villages having population of more than five thousand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Post offices in rural areas are opened keeping in view financial, distance and population norms prescribed for the purpose. Panchayat Headquarters are given preference for opening of post offices subject to fulfilment of these norms. The norms for opening of a post office in rural areas are give as under:-

(1) Population:-

(a) In normal areas : 3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible areas:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(2) Distance:-

(a) In normal areas: The minimum distance from the nearest post office will be 3 kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible ares:-

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(3) Anticipated income:-

(a) In normal areas:- The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, desert and Inaccessible areas: The minimum anticipated in-